Government Colony in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi being systematically destroyed by the hired men of M/s Modern Bazar and Hotel Vasant Continental for their commercial benefit; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from Delhi Administration and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Dilution of equity by Hindustan Lever Limited**

278. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Lever Limited has not diluted its equity below 51% as per the provisions of FERA even though 74% of its production and sales is in low technology area of soaps and detergents;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the operation of such a multinational company in low technology area is against Government's policy thereby affecting the growth of indigenous and small scale industries; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Hindustan Lever Limited was permitted under Section 29(2)(a) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to continue to carry on its business in India with 51% foreign equity subject, *inter-alia*, to the conditions that (i) the company's annual turnover from Appendix I activity, products/process involving sophisticated technology and own exports would not be less than 60% of the company's total turnover; and (ii) not less than 10% of the company's own production during each year would be exported.

The company has been fulfilling these stipulations.

(c) Does not arise.

**Impounding of aircraft by the Customs Department**

279. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs Department, Bombay have impounded two newly purchased aircraft by the Air India on account of non-payment of duties by the Air India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air India had not applied for the total duty exemption to the Customs Department before bringing the new aircraft; and

(d) if so, what is the present position of the case with regard to the release of these aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) M/s. Air India applied for total exemption from Customs duty leviable on two B-747-300 (Combi) aircraft to be imported into India before bringing them into the country.

(d) The aircraft have already been released.

**Adoption of legal device by Smugglers to avoid detention Under COFEPOSA**

280. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suspected